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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. Cox of California].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable CHRISTOPHER COX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May this season when nature surrounds us with the signs of spring, remind us, O God, of the benefits of restoration and renewal in our lives and in our world. We know that Your wondrous creation can become ordinary and Your remarkable presence can become routine. So we pray for the renewal of our minds and for new zeal in our hearts so we will become strong in body, and spirit. For the gifts of this season and for Your gracious spirit, O God, we offer our thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr.

BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2024. An act to phase out the use of mercury in batteries and provide for the efficient and cost-effective collection and recycling or proper disposal of used nickel cadmium batteries, small sealed lead-acid batteries, and certain other batteries, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without

objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on Resources and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report that I have exercised the authority provided to me under subsection 325(c) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996, to suspend subsection 325(a) and 325(b) of such Act. A copy of the suspension is attached.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 26, 1996.

GOOD NEWS REGARDING BOSNIA

(Mr. SKELTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is the fifth speech I am giving on Bosnia. It contains good news.

In my last address I stated that on March 28 I sent a letter to the President regarding the New York Times report that the United States is being urged to stay in Bosnia longer than a year. This would break the word of the administration and of the Secretary of State, who said that the American forces would be in Bosnia for only 1 year.

The Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, said that 1-year limitation would give the warring parties the opportunity to have peace but it would not be a guarantee. Mr. Speaker, I have heard from the President today with a letter dated April 22. He clearly states that the IFOR mission should be complete in about a year. This is good news, and it is in contrast with the New York Times article.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD my March 28 and the President's April 22 letters.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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